

II. CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1. (Currently amended) Method for controlling a system, especially an electrical and/or electronic system comprising a plurality of application devices, in which:

control information is ~~input by~~ received from a user independently ~~from~~ of a permanently predetermined menu structure;

the control information input is interpreted in accordance with available ones of the application devices by checking whether the control information is known, unambiguous and complete for one of the application devices; and

an application device is controlled in accordance with the result of the interpretation.

2. (Previously presented) Method according to Claim 1, characterized in that the control information specified by a user is signaled back to the user as announcement or indication for the purpose of acknowledgement.

3. (Previously presented) Method according to Claim 2, characterized in that control information input which allows a number of possibilities for its interpretation is signaled back as selection list.

4. (Previously presented) Method according to Claim 2, characterized in that control information input which cannot be reliably interpreted is correspondingly marked in a return signaling.

5. (Previously presented) Method according to claim 1, characterized in that a check is made whether the control information is complete in order to be able to execute a requested action, and that the user is requested to complete the control information if this is not the case.

6. (Previously presented) Method according to claim 1, characterized in that the control information input as keyword or keywords is compared with stored keywords for the purpose of interpretation.

7. (Original) Method according to Claim 6, characterized in that the available application devices, control instructions and control parameters are stored as keywords as control information.

8. (Original) Method according to Claim 7, characterized in that the control parameters are stored as lists.

9. (Previously presented) Method according to Claim 7, characterized in that control instructions are stored as data records together with dummy codes for the application devices affected and the control parameters needed in each case to execute the instructions.

10. (Previously presented) Method for controlling a system having a plurality of application devices, the method comprising the steps of:

receiving control information at the system, the control information being inputted by a user of the system;

interpreting the control information in accordance with available ones of the application devices by checking whether the control information is known, unambiguous and complete for one of the application devices;

in the event of the presence of a lack of knowledge or ambiguity or incompleteness of the control information, the system signaling to the user to resolve a lack of knowledge or ambiguity or incompleteness of the control information, the signaling to the user being independent of a permanently predetermined menu structure, the signaling enabling the user to enter a response for resolving the lack of knowledge or ambiguity or incompleteness of the control information to insure that the control information is known, unambiguous and complete for one of the application devices; and

controlling the one application device in accordance with the result of the interpretation.

11. (New) Method according to Claim 1, characterized in that further information is requested if the control information is unknown or is ambiguous or is incomplete.

12. (New) A system comprising:

a set of application devices having at least one application device;

an input device for receiving control information from a user independently from a permanently predetermined menu structure;

wherein the system is operative to interpret the control information from the input device in accordance with available ones of the application devices by checking whether the control information is known, unambiguous and complete for one of the application devices; and

an application device is controlled in accordance with the result of the interpretation.

13. (New) A system according to Claim 12, further comprising an output device for outputting information to the user, wherein the system is operative to request, via the output device, further information from the user if the control information is unknown or is ambiguous or is incomplete.

14. (New) A user interface for a system having a set of application devices including at least one application device, the interface comprising:

an input device for receiving control information from the user independently from a permanently predetermined menu structure;

wherein the system is operative to interpret the control information from the input device in accordance with available ones of the application devices by checking whether the control information is known, unambiguous and complete for one of the application devices; and

an application device is controlled in accordance with the result of the interpretation.

15. (New) An interface according to Claim 14, wherein the control information specified by a user is signaled back to the

user as announcement or indication for the purpose of acknowledgement.

16. (New) An interface according to Claim 15, wherein the control information input which allows a number of possibilities for its interpretation is signaled back as selection list.

17. (New) An interface according to Claim 15, wherein the control information input which cannot be reliably interpreted is correspondingly marked in a return signaling.

18. (New) An interface according to claim 14, wherein a check is made whether the control information is complete in order to be able to execute a requested action, and that the user is requested to complete the control information if this is not the case.

19. (New) An interface according to claim 14, wherein the control information input as keyword or keywords is compared with stored keywords for the purpose of interpretation.

20. (New) An interface according to Claim 19, wherein the available application devices, control instructions and control parameters are stored as keywords as control information.

21. (New) An interface according to Claim 14, further comprising an output device for outputting information from the system to the user, wherein the system is operative to request, via the output device, further information from the user if the control information is unknown or is ambiguous or is incomplete.